

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I believe this to be illegal, undemocratic and evidence of political corruption. Incidentally, it is my view that the media, including Sinclair, have an obligation to be truthful, accurate, precise in every broadcast, including all advertisements and details of news. They should be held liable for misinformation, lies, propaganda and malicious intent that adversely affects viewers; punitive damages should be determined in court by juries in class action law suits on behalf of plaintiffs.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.